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Frye's Complete, p. 9, 1895; Potter's Advanced, p. 12, 1891; Monteith's New Physical, p. 78, and Tarr's Physical, p. 316, 1896. In the last case it has ceased being a picture and has become wholly a diagram. But Prof. Tarr could tell a better fact and save two square inches of space by drawing a proper 'diagram.'

But the school texts have no monopoly on this comical berg. In the 'Story of Our Planet,' by T. G. Bonney, 1893, there are three of them, not so unstable as the others, but still ready to 'flop.' And in 'Man and the Glacial Period,' by G. Frederick Wright, p. 18, 1892, and by the same author, the more pretentious work, 'The Ice Age in North America,' 1889, p. 107, this physical impossibility is held in high esteem. In the latter work the author is not content to leave it in the text, but it glares at you in gilt from the back of the book, every time you pass it in its place on the shelf.

It is truly a relief after looking through this list to pick up A. Geikie's Text-book of Geology, and J. Geikie's 'Great Ice Age,' and find real rational icebergs.

J. PAUL GOODE.

#### SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

*The Royal Natural History: Mammals.* By RICHARD LYDEKKER. London and New York, Frederick Warne & Co. New York, 1893-95.

The mammal part of Lydekker's Royal Natural History is now completed, and most of the bird parts are out also.

The attempt of the author and publisher to produce a popular 'Natural History,' entertaining to the general reader and at the same time scientifically accurate, has met with more than the usual measure of success. The work is handsomely gotten up and profusely illustrated.

It was hoped that some of the errors and omissions of the original edition would be corrected in the American reprint, but no changes whatever have been made. In fact, there is in reality only one edition for both issues are printed from the same type and on the same paper. The only difference is in the outside covers, which in the American issue bear later dates. This should be borne in mind in quoting

the work, as it is important to give the correct date. The last part came out in England before the middle of last year (1895).

The mammal part covers about 1,500 pages, royal octavo size, and, in spite of numerous inaccuracies, affords the naturalist, student and sportsman the best and most reliable general account yet published of the highest class of the animal kingdom. Since the English edition was reviewed at some length in this journal (SCIENCE, April 5, 1895, pp. 387-389, and July 5, 1895, pp. 18-21) it is unnecessary to say anything further about the American issue. If the publishers would get out an American supplement, bringing the matter down to date from the American standpoint, the work would long remain a standard of reference on the Mammalia.

C. H. M.

#### THE PALPI OF BUTTERFLIES.

*Ueber die Palpen der Rhopaloceren. Ein Beitrag zur Erkenntnis des verwandtschaftlichen Beziehungen unter der Tagfaltern.* VON ENZIO REUTER. Acta Soc. Scient. Fennicæ. T. xxii. No. 1. Helsingfors, 1896, 4°.

In this work, one of the most important recent contributions to our knowledge of the structure and classification of butterflies, the author expands fully the discovery announced by him a few years ago of an area of peculiar character on the inner side of the basal joint of the palpi of these insects, varying greatly in extent and nature in different groups and affording, as he believes, perhaps too confidently, an important test of relationship. That he has not reached his conclusions on any cursory study or meagre material will be evident from this volume of nearly six hundred pages, its accompanying plates, and the statement that he has examined 3,557 palpi of 670 species belonging to 302 genera, appertaining to all the principal groups except the Hesperiidæ, which he neglects.

The structure and clothing of the palpi are given in detail for each genus, with a specification of the species examined and the number of individuals of each. The characteristics of the scaleless region called the *basal fleck* are a rippled, pitted surface, covered with conical dermal appendages, and the variations in their extent and character are brought out by this study, which